

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

3/25/04

CONFERENCE REPORT

SB 252 (BRATER)

SB 252 would increase the permit fees paid by dischargers of storm water. The bill would also require wastewater discharge permit holders to submit an application fee and pay an annual permit fee based in part on EPA designations, with separate levels for municipal facilities.

• The Senate vacated enrollment of SB 252 and sent the bill back to the House. [no RC].

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

HB 4720 (LaJoy)

HB 4720 mandates that the DMB create and operate a cooperative bulk purchasing program for local school districts, public school academies and intermediate school districts. The department already has a program in place and has begun to aggressively market it to publicly-funded schools, community colleges and universities. The Senate amended the bill to include "nonpublic" schools to the list of entities for which the DMB must create and operate a cooperative bulk purchasing program. Some may consider this to be an indirect subsidization of private schools with public tax dollars.

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to HB 4720 [RC 150: 37 yes, 0 no].

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 998 (Cropsey) SB 999 (Sanborn) SB 1000 (Patterson)

SB 998 would establish Drug Treatment Courts to supervise treatment programs for individuals who abuse or are dependant upon any controlled substance or alcohol. These courts have proven to be effective at helping non-violent individuals get help and stay out of the criminal justice system. This bill is necessary to create and set standards for drug treatment courts throughout the state of Michigan.

- Cropsey 1 was adopted [no RC].
- SB 998 passed [RC 160: 37 yes, 0 no].

SB 999 would exclude a person who had successfully completed participation in a drug treatment court from a deferral and dismissal of controlled substance charges.

• SB 999 passed [RC 161: 37 yes, 0 no].

SB 1000 would exclude a person who had successfully completed participation in a drug treatment court from future designation as a youthful trainee.

• SB 1000 passed [RC 153: 37 yes, 0 no].

SB 1026 (McManus)

SB 1026 would designate the Friday in the second full week of May as "Michigan Manufacturing Day". To celebrate that day, Manufacturers would be encouraged to open their plants and facilities to young people, teachers, and parents to foster knowledge and appreciation of the historic, scientific, economic, and cultural significance of manufacturing in Michigan.

Support: Michigan Manufacturing Association.

- SCHAUER 1 (2 amends) was withdrawn. This would expanded the bill, so that every day would be manufacturing day.
- SB 1026 passed [RC 157: 37 yes, 0 no].

SB 1093 (Brown)

SB 1093 gives tax credits for new jobs. Technically, the bill allows an SBT credit for new jobs created after December 31, 2004 by companies with receipts of \$10,000,000 or less. A new (or "created") job is one which: did not exist the previous tax year, represents an overall increase in full-time employees from the previous years, and which is not a job into which a current in-state employee transferred.

As amended, SB 1093 would result in an estimated loss of \$10 million a year going forward. Treasury estimates a loss of \$6.67 million a year going forward.

Support: MMA, NFIB.

Oppose: MEA.

• SB 1093 passed [RC 156: 28 yes, 9 no].

HB 4702 (Caswell)

HB 4702 would require property tax assessors to exclude from the sales data all sales of agricultural real property that was not sold for agricultural use.

- BRATER 1 (2 amends) was defeated [RC 158: 17 yes, 20 no (GOP)]. This would have protected farm land.
- Birkholz 2 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC].
- HB 4702 passed with IE [RC 159: 33 yes, 4 no].

HB 5117 (Ehardt)

HB 5117 would require that, beginning October 1, 2005, clinical laboratories doing business in this state that analyze blood samples for lead would have to electronically report the results of the blood lead analysis to the Department of Community Health.

Support: Granholm administration, DCH, MI State Council of Junior Leagues, MI Lead Safe Partnership, Get the Lead Out (Grand Rapids), Michigan's Children, MI Environmental Council.

• HB 5117 passed with IE [RC 155: 37 yes, 0 no].

HB 5119 (WILLIAMS)

HB 5119 would require that at least 80% of children enrolled in Medicaid are tested for lead poisoning. Specifically, it would require the Department of Community Health (DCH) to ensure that, by October 1, 2007, as a condition of federal funding, all health professionals, facilities, or HMOs receiving Medicaid payments are in substantial compliance with federal lead screening standards (at least 80%).

SUPPORT: DCH, Michigan Association of Health Plans, MI State Council of Junior Leagues, MI Lead Safe Partnership, Get the Lead Out (Grand Rapids), Michigan's Children, MI Environmental Council, Detroit Lead Partnership.

• HB 5119 passed with IE [RC 154: 37 yes, 0 no].

HB 5479 (Howell)

HB 5479 would provide for 1 additional district judgeship in Mecosta and Osceola Counties effective January 1, 2005.

• HB 5479 passed with IE [RC 151: 28 yes, 8 no].

HB 5480 (Howell)

HB 5480 would provide for 1 additional circuit judgeship in Clare and Gladwin Counties effective January 1, 2005.

• HB 5480 passed with IE [RC 152: 29 yes, 8 no].

THIRD READING

SB 1073 (Kuipers)

SB 1073 would clarify the language on continuing education for superintendents, principals, assistant principals, or other administrator. The bill requires that administrators complete continuing education within five years of initial employment and each subsequent five-year period.

Support: Department of Education, Michigan Association of School Boards, Michigan Association of School Administrators, Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals.

• SB 1073 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 5344 (HARDMAN)

HB 5344 would allow 11 new housing units in Detroit that were inadvertently left out of the developer's application for a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone certificate qualify for the tax abatement.

• HB 5344 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

RESOLUTIONS

SR 224 (Hammerstrom)

A resolution to express opposition to any new or revised (Granholm) administrative rules that are more stringent than federal policies and that impede economic development and job creation.

• SR 224 was adopted [RC 162: 33 yes, 4 no]